

The San Joaquin Valley needs water to survive. Our Valley's jobs and way of life are at stake, and it is my top priority to ensure that our farmers, workers, and communities receive the water we need to get our economy going again.

We are making progress, and each day is a new opportunity to secure more water and take on the critics of our Valley. This page will provide you with background on the water crisis, along with news and updates on my ongoing efforts to increase the flow of water to our Valley.

Latest News

[Costa Announces Increased Federal Water Allocation Forecast](#)

[Costa Announces Funding To Begin Construction On Key Valley Water Project](#)

[Costa Statement On Possible Delay To Water Bond](#)

[Costa Announces New Water Increase For The Valley](#)

[Costa Statement On Wanger Ruling To Lift Pumping Restrictions](#)

About the Water Crisis

Flawed policies and court-ordered water limitations, coupled with several years of below average rain fall, have taken their toll on our Valley. While more rain and snow has helped our outlook this year, the water supply challenges we must confront are man-made.

A series of policies and regulations aimed at protecting fish and restoring the health of the Delta have severely limited our water supply. These one-sided regulations, which are backed by extreme members of the environmental community and Valley outsiders, have failed to restore fish populations or the health of the Delta. Instead, they have wreaked havoc on our economy and threatened the livelihoods of future generations of Valley residents.

On top of these misguided regulations, California's water infrastructure simply cannot support our state's growing population. Our water system was originally designed for 20 million people. By 2030, we could have as many as 50 million people residing in the state. Along with doing everything we can to fight for immediate increases to our water supply, we must also focus on solutions to our long-term water needs.

Simply put, we need water now, and our children and grandchildren will need water in the future.

Water Equals Jobs

Water translates into jobs and economic security for our region. The water limitations and years of drought have forced over half a million acres of farmland out of production and have had a ripple effect throughout our entire economy. From the producers, transporters, and sellers all the way to local businesses, countless Valley jobs are tied to the success of our \$36 billion agricultural sector.

The catastrophic impact of the water supply crisis on Valley job losses is clearly illustrated by respected economists with the University of California, Davis, who estimated that because of reduced water supplies in 2009, the San Joaquin Valley lost thousands of jobs, and calculate that the current restrictions have been reducing regional economic output by \$8 million a day.

Agricultural development is economic development in the Valley. Securing an increased supply of water is critical to putting people back to work and making a full economic recovery.

Taking On Our Critics

Ideologically driven lawmakers and critics of our valley are more than willing to play the blame game. They justify the water limitations by falsely blaming Valley agriculture for the decline in the Delta's health.

For years, we've operated under flawed policies and bad science aimed at restoring the Delta's health and protecting fish. However, the current biological opinions in place have neither restored fish populations, nor strengthened the health of the Delta.

So, as critics continue to point fingers at the Valley, other regions far to our North continue to dump nitrates, ammonia and other pollutants into the Delta. In fact, nearly 14 million pounds of nitrates have been dumped in the Delta since 2000.

Placing the blame on the Valley for degrading the Delta is both disingenuous and a full-scale attack on the people who call the Valley home. Our critics would be well served to remember where their food comes from and the critical role our region plays in our nation's economy.

Producing Results

Water is the lifeblood of our Valley. Without water there are no jobs and no economic opportunity. Fighting to increase our water supply is my top priority and we are making progress.

Last year, farmers on the Westside started with a mere 10% water allocation. After my repeated efforts to press the Administration to do more, we increased the allocation to 45%. This 45% water allocation is four times the amount we received last year and means that more farmers

will be able to plant crops and put people back to work.

I have also secured funding for projects that will bring additional water to our region. For instance, I secured \$10 million dollars in the last year's Energy and Water Appropriations for Valley water projects and fought to fund the Intertie pipeline and pumping station which is now under construction. I also pushed the Administration to allocate \$32 million in funds for drought relief in the Valley.

Our work is far from over, but we are winning this fight and more water is flowing to the Valley.

We will continue to fight against the flawed biological opinions and regulations that are dumping our water into the Pacific Ocean in the name of misguided environmentalism. We will continue to press the Administration and support a legal strategy to get the pumps flowing at maximum capacity. We will also continue to take on our critics and keep working towards long-term solutions to protect our Valley and state's water supply for generations to come.

To stay up to date on the progress we are making, check this page for regular updates and announcements.

Links

The following are links that will be helpful in following the water supply situation and learning about government actions and programs to respond to the situation and its consequences.

* Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region: www.usbr.gov/mp

* California Department of Water Resources: <http://www.water.ca.gov/>

* USDA Disaster Assistance:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>

Please check back to this site for regular update on the water crisis and Congressman Costa's efforts to bring more water to the Valley.

****EDITORIALS****

04.17.09 - *The Fresno Bee* " [Rebalancing Our State's Water System](#) "

02.24.10- *The San Francisco Chronicle* " [Feinstein Amendment Would Ease San Joaquin Woes](#) "

02.02.10 - *The Hanford Sentinel* " [We Need to Fight for Our Valley](#) "

03.12.10 - *The Fresno Bee* " [A Response to Critics of Valley's Economy](#) "

****UPDATES****

1.18.11 Rep. Costa Announces Increased Federal Water Allocation Forecast

Costa: "Our Valley is set to receive more water than in recent years. This is good news for Valley jobs and our economy."

Congressman Jim Costa today announced that the Interior Department is forecasting a federal water supply allocation for south of the Delta agricultural contractors that is four times greater than last year's initial allocation. In its 2011 Federal Water Allocation Outlook, the Interior Department forecasts a water allocation of 45%. Last year's initial water allocation was a mere 5%. To learn more, please go [here](#).

12.15.10 Rep. Costa Responds To Federal Update On CA Water Plan

"The state and federal agencies must get this plan right so our Valley receives its fair share of water." This was Congressman Jim Costa's response to a report released today by the Administration providing an update on the state and federal agencies' work to address California's long-term water challenges. The federal update, which can be viewed [here](#), focuses specifically on the work to complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) – a plan with the dual goals of improving water deliveries to the Central Valley and southern part of the state as well as restoring the health of the Bay Delta. To learn more, please go [here](#).

10.14.10 Rep. Costa Breaks Ground on Major Water Project

The Intertie will bring more water to the Valley, increase water reliability

Congressman Jim Costa's fight for the Valley's economy took another step forward today at a groundbreaking for a major Valley water project that he fought to fund. The Intertie pipeline and pumping station will link the Delta Mendota Canal to the California Aqueduct. Once completed, the project will increase the flow of water to Valley communities and improve the reliability of water supplies. The Intertie will be fully operational in 2012. To learn more, please go [here](#).

9.23.10 Today, Rep. Costa responded to opponents of our Valley who are trying to tie the hands of federal and state water agencies in moving forward with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Our Valley needs long-term solutions such as the Peripheral Canal, additional water storage, and Delta repairs that only the BDCP can offer, and will not stand for these attacks on something so critical to our region and our State. Costa will continue to fight to increase our Valley's water supply and for important investments in our water storage and infrastructure. The text of the letter sent to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary Lester Snow of California's Natural Resources Agency is available [here](#).

9.20.10 Today, Rep. Costa joined Rep. Cardoza in strong support of the continuation of Grassland Bypass Project-San Joaquin River Salinity Management Program, which is a successful agriculture drainage control program in the San Joaquin Valley. To read the full letters to Rep. Napolitano and Garamendi and to the California State Water Resources Control Board, please go [here](#) and [here](#).

9.8.10 State Board Joins Costa's Calls for Sacramento Officials to Clean Up the Delta

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is the latest voice to join Congressman Jim Costa's calls for Sacramento sanitation officials to step up their treatment of sewage being dumped into the Bay Delta. To learn more, please go [here](#).

8.27.10 Rep. Costa Blasts Sacramento Sanitation Officials Over Inaction to Treat Ammonia Discharges

Today, Congressman Jim Costa blasted Sacramento sanitation officials, stating that their disregard for the facts and inaction to remove ammonia from treated sewage being dumped into the Delta is costing the Valley jobs and a fair share of water. To learn more, please go [here](#).

7.29.10 Rep. Costa Announces Funding to Begin Construction on Key Valley Water Project

Congressman Jim Costa today announced that the Bureau of Reclamation has awarded a \$14.6 million contract for construction of the Intertie project that will link the Delta Mendota Canal to the California Aqueduct. To learn more, please go [here](#).

7.1.10- Rep. Costa Statement on Possible Delay to Water Bond

Congressman Jim Costa released the following statement today regarding Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's intention to delay a vote on the \$11.14 billion water bond until the November 2012 ballot:

"Postponing this critical bond measure is frustrating to most of us who support the water package. However, the possibility of delay is better than outright defeat in November. To learn more, please go [here](#)

6.24.10 Today, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board of the Central Valley Region responded to a letter regarding my concerns about ammonia discharges affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. To read the full letter, please go [here](#) .

6.23.10 Rep. Costa Statement on Delta Smelt Agreement to Keep Pumps On

Following Judge Oliver Wanger's May decision that federal regulations restricting Valley water are flawed, Valley water users and environmental groups reached an agreement regarding the Delta smelt that will keep the pumps moving water south of the Delta turned on through June. All pumping restrictions required under the smelt biological opinion will cease as of July 1st, allowing water to flow freely to the Valley through the end of the year. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

06.14.10 Today, Rep. Costa Announced New Water Increase for the Valley.

Rep. Costa announced that the Interior Department will be increasing water allocations from the federal Central Valley Project to 45 percent for agricultural service contractors south of the Delta. Interior's latest announcement is another increase from the Department's initial announcement of 5 percent on February 26. To learn more, please go [here](#).

06.10.10 Today, Reps. Costa and Cardoza requested that California water regulators immediately examine the implications of wastewater discharges flowing from Sacramento into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. To learn more, please click [here](#).

05.28.10 Today, Rep. Costa responded to resignations from the National Academy of Sciences Panel.

Rep. Costa and Rep. Dennis Cardoza demanded answers from the National Academy of Sciences to explain why a scientist whose findings question the validity of federal water policy was removed from the panel examining the factors degrading the health of the Bay-Delta and solutions to the region's water challenges. To learn more, please go [here](#).

05.28.10 Today, Rep. Costa responded to the Wanger Smelt Decision

Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) responded today to Judge Oliver Wanger's decision on threatened Delta smelt, calling the ruling a win for Valley farmers and the economy. Wanger ruled that the scientific opinions regarding smelt were flawed and that water regulations must consider human factors along with fish concerns. To learn more, please go [here](#).

05.26.10 Today, Rep. Costa issued the following statement after Judge Oliver Wanger ordered that limits on pumping water from the Bay Delta can be lifted to allow more water to flow to the Valley. Wanger's ruling follows his earlier decision that regulations limiting water for the Valley are flawed. "Judge Wanger's ruling is more welcome news for our farmers and economy. It is also good news for those of us fighting to change unfair federal water regulations. Our job now is to make sure nothing stands in the way of getting the water Judge Wanger's ruling promises. To learn more, please go [here](#)

05.20.10 Today, Rep. Costa Pressed the Administration to Revise Water Regulations after Wanger Decision

Today, Rep. Costa and Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced) sent a letter to Interior Secretary Salazar and Commerce Secretary Locke, urging the Departments to incorporate new science into revising the current water regulations restricting the flow of water to the Valley. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

05.17.10 New Study Confirms Costa Contention: Water Regulations Biased Against Valley Must Be Changed

Today, Rep. Costa said he will use a new study to further his fight to change water regulations that punish the Valley for fish-killing pollutants dumped into the water system far to the north. Costa has long contended that flawed water regulations are devastating the local economy by diverting water from the Valley in the name of saving fish while all but ignoring the effects of pollutants entering the Bay Delta from as far north as the Bay Area and Sacramento. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

05.04.10 Rep. Costa Statement on Plan to Revise Regulations Limiting Water for the Valley

Rep. Costa responded today to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke's announcement of an interagency plan to revise and integrate two biological opinions issued under the Endangered Species Act. Integrating the biological opinions opens the door to modifying the one-sided scientific rulings limiting the flow of water to the Valley. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

05.04.10 Rep. Costa Announced New Water Increase for Valley

Today, Rep. Costa announced that the Interior Department will be increasing water allocations from the federal Central Valley Project to 40 percent for agricultural service contractors south of the Delta. Interior's latest announcement is another increase from the Department's initial announcement of 5 percent on February 26. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

04.27.10 Today, Reps. Costa and Cardoza (D-Merced) took aim at the NMFS Biological Opinion and sent a letter to Commerce Secretary Locke, calling on the Department to exercise greater flexibility in implementing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) biological opinion that is diverting water that could be flowing to the Valley into the Pacific Ocean. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

04.15.10 - Today, Rep. Costa took the Valley's Fight to the House Floor and blasted flawed policies and close-minded thinking restricting water the Valley's farmers, farmworkers, and farm communities. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

04.15.10- Today, Rep. Costa issued the following statement regarding Secretary Salazar's announcement that the Interior Department will be increasing water allocations from the federal Central Valley Project to 30 percent for agricultural service contractors south of the Delta. Combined with the additional 8 to 10 percent of supplemental water the Department said it will obtain through various actions, today's announcement represents a possible 40 percent water allocation for Westside Valley farmers and farm communities at normal contracted water rates. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

04.13.10- Today, Reps. Costa and Cardoza (D-Merced) announced funding to deliver more water to the Valley. This include \$20.7 million in Recovery Act funds for the Delta Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Interie Project. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

04.05.10- Today, Rep. Costa said today that if Bay Area Congressman George Miller (D-Richmond) wants a war over water allocations, then Costa and his Congressional District will give him one in response to Miller's promise to push for tougher restricitons on water diversions to farms and cities in the San Joaquin Valley. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

03.31.10 - Today, Rep. Costa joined in a bipartisan letter demanding that U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke explain why sport fishermen will be allowed to take an undetermined number of salmon under new California Department of Fish and Game regulations while pumping will be reduced at the federal and state pumps for agriculture beginning on March 31st in order to protect the same fish. To learn more and to read the letter, please go [here](#)

03.18.10 - Today, Rep. Costa pressed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Governor Schwarzenegger about the effect of predation by non-native species on the Delta. To learn more, please go [here](#) and [here](#) .

03.12.10 - Today, Rep. Costa pressed President Obama to increase water and support to the Valley. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

03.11.10 - Today, at House Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing, Rep. Costa took on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for not funding drought relief. To learn more, please go [here](#)

.

03.02.10- Today, Congressman Jim Costa and Congressman Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced) sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar demanding that the Department increase the flow of water to the Valley. In addition, Costa and Cardoza stressed the need for timeliness and affordability regarding the Valley's water supply deliveries. Costa and Cardoza's letter follows the Interior Department's [announcement](#) last week on agricultural water allocations from the federal Central Valley Project. To read the full letter to Sec. Salazar, please go [here](#)

.

01.24.10 - Today, Rep. Costa and Rep. Cardoza (D-Merced) sent a letter to the Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, demanding that he maximize water supply allocations for the 2010 irrigation season. To read the full letter to Sec. Salazar, please go [here](#) .

02.19.10 – Today, Rep. Costa and Rep. Cardoza (D-Merced) called on Secretary of Interior

Ken Salazar to release water supply allocation information for the 2010 irrigation season as soon as possible. To read the full letter to Secretary Salazar, please go [here](#) .

02.19.10 – Today, Rep. Costa stepped up support for proposed Emergency Water Supply legislation and sent a letter to Chairwoman of the House Water and Power Subcommittee, Rep. Grace Napolitano, urging her to support the legislation. To learn more, please go [here](#) and to read the full letter to Rep. Napolitano, please go [here](#) .

02.18.10- Today, Rep. Costa expressed concern about the pace of progress on the Success Dam Seismic Remediation project. To read the full letter from Reps. Costa, Cardoza, Nunes and Senators Feinstein and Boxer to Assistant Secretary for the Army for Civil Work regarding this project, please go [here](#) .

12.01.09 - Rep. Costa Statement on State Water Project Allocation

Following the Department of Water Resource's initial announcement of a 5 percent water allocation for San Joaquin Valley Farmers, Congressman Costa made the following statement.

“This is the worst news our farmers, farm workers and farm communities could have been told today. The water crisis has devastated our local economy and put thousands of Valley

residents out of work. For the past 18 months, Congressman Cardoza and I have worked tirelessly to bring relief to our Valley. We have been able to secure funding for twenty-five water projects, pass legislation to ease water transfers, and continue to press for short, mid and long-term solutions to this crisis. Today's news is unacceptable. We need immediate action from both Governor Schwarzenegger and President Obama to ensure a stable water supply for Valley farms and cities this growing season.

12.11.09- Today, Rep. Costa raised concerns about the potential impact of legislation updating the Clean Water Act on Valley agriculture. To read the full letter to Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rep. Oberstar, please go [here](#) .

11.16.00- Today, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar acknowledged the key role of Reps. Costa and Cardoza in bringing the Administration's attention to the California water crisis. To read Sec. Salazar's full letter, please go [here](#) .

11.09.09 - Obama Administration to assist with Valley Water Projects

Over the last several months, Congressmen Costa and Cardoza have met with top officials from the White House and the Department of the Interior regarding California's water crisis. As part of ongoing discussions, the Congressmen have expressed the need for the Obama Administration to take action to address California's Central Valley water crisis. In conjunction with their recent legislative efforts, the Congressmen have provided the Administration [with a list of water-improvement projects and actions](#) that would provide significant relief to San Joaquin Valley farmers, farm workers, and farm communities. To learn more, please go [here](#)

.

11.05.09 - Rep. Costa submitted testimony to a Senate Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing in support of the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009 which Reps. Costa and Cardoza have concurrently introduced in the House. To learn more, please go [here](#)

.

11.03.09 - Rep. Costa Co-Sponsors Bill To Demand Accounting Of All Factors Affecting Delta Smelt

Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) joined Congressmen Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced) and George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) to introduce bipartisan legislation that calls for a review of the federal biological opinions that have significantly reduced the amount of water flowing to San Joaquin Valley farmers. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

10.29.09 - Costa Asks State Legislature to Craft and Pass Vital Water Legislation

Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) sent a letter to the California State Senate and Assembly urging both chambers take the lead and craft a robust water package to improve California's broken water system. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

10.26.09 - Costa Letter Regarding Two-Gates Project

Congressman Jim Costa submitted comments to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Two-Gates project. The Bureau of Reclamation released a Draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the proposed Two-Gates project for public review. A public meeting was held in Fresno on October 26, 2009 at 6:30pm. To learn more, please go [here](#).

10.16.09 - Rep. Costa wrote to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to raise concerns regarding the Department's intentions to contract the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an independent scientific review on the two Bay Delta Biological Opinions. To view this document, please click [here](#).

10.16.09 - Costa Opposes Bay Area Water Recycling Bill

Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) voted against the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act of 2009 today because it offered no assistance to the water crisis in the San Joaquin Valley. However, bill passed the House by a vote of 241 to 173. Costa spoke on the House Floor today opposing the process which brought the bill to the floor. The speech can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

10.15.09- Rep. Costa urged Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to immediately begin moving forward to address numerous administrative issues so that water transfers can be approved and completed expeditiously in preparation for the coming water year. To learn more, please go [here](#).

10.5.09 - Rep. Costa wrote to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to inform him of new possible projects that could blunt the impact of the California water supply crisis. To view this document, please click [here](#) .

09.15.09 - Letter from the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the State Water Contractors to Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes regarding status of Two Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

09.09.09 - Rep. Costa called upon United States Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to take immediate action to address the ongoing water crisis in the San Joaquin Valley. These comments came on the heels of a joint letter from Secretaries Locke and Salazar responding to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's letter calling on them to act on California's behalf and re-consult the flawed biological opinions. To learn more, please go [here](#) and [here](#) .

09.04.09 - Rep. Costa sent a letter to Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes regarding the review of science underlying Biological Opinions. To read Rep. Costa's full letter, please go [here](#) .

08.20.09 - Rep. Costa Announces Approximately \$15 Million in Federal Grants for Water Infrastructure Improvements

Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) announced that approximately \$15,364,192 million has been awarded to water districts in the Valley. The Bureau of Reclamation made Challenge Grant awards throughout California and around the nation. Funding for the Challenge Grant program was made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). To learn more, please go [here](#) .

07.31.09 - Rep. Costa Announces Approximately \$32.9 Million In Water Infrastructure Funding For Valley

Today, Congressman Jim Costa(D-Fresno) announced that approximately \$32,957,000 million has been awarded to water districts and cities south of the Delta. The Bureau of Reclamation identified drought-relief projects throughout California, many in Costa's district, that will share in \$40 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Water districts and cities south of the Delta received over 80% of the allocated funding. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

07.17.09 - House Passes Two Costa Amendments To The Energy And Water Appropriations Bill

Earlier in the week, the House of Representatives passed two amendments authored by Congressman Jim Costa(D-Fresno) and Congressman Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced) by voice vote. These amendments will fund critical California water projects and ease regulations to transfer water around the State. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

07.14.09 - House Rules Committee Accepts Two Costa Amendments to the Energy and Water

Appropriations Bill

If passed by the full House, Amendment will fund critical water projects and ease regulations to transfer water around the state. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

07.08.09 - House Appropriations Committee Does Not Pass Amendment to Bring More Water to the San Joaquin Valley

Last night, the House Appropriations Committee unfortunately did not pass an amendment which would have maintained maximum pumping operation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno), working with Congressman Devin Nunes (R-Tulare), urged fellow Democrats on the Committee to support the amendment. Ultimately, the amendment failed in a vote before the full committee by a tally of 25 to 33. To read more, please go [here](#) .

06.25.09 - Today, Rep. Costa sent a letter to President Obama urging support for Governor Schwarzenegger's request for a declaration of major disaster for the State of California in the County of Fresno. To read the full letter to the President, please go [here](#) .

06.24.09 - Reps. Costa And Cardoza Announce Secretary Salazar Will Visit Valley This Sunday

Today, Congressmen Jim Costa (D-Fresno) and Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced) announced that

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will arrive in the San Joaquin Valley on Sunday, June 28th, 2009. Salazar will be joined by Deputy Secretary David Hayes and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Mike Connor. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

06.24.09 - Today, Rep. Costa urged President Obama to issue an executive order focusing federal agency efforts on economic development in the San Joaquin Valley and urged the President to visit the Central Valley to see the impact of the economy and drought on our residents. To read Rep. Costa's letter to the President, please go [here](#) .

06.18.09 - House Does Not Pass Amendment To Cut All Funding To Erroneous Biological Opinion On The Delta.

Today, the House of Representatives failed to pass a bipartisan amendment to the Commerce -Justice-Science Appropriations Act which would have cut all funding to the misguided National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion on the Delta by a narrow vote of 208 to 218. Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) voted in favor of the amendment. If passes later this afternoon, the Act would move onto the Senate for consideration. To learn more, please go [here](#) .

06.16.09 - Today, Rep. Costa, along with fellow Valley representatives, sent a letter to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget Peter Orszag to express their concern about the implementation of the Information Quality Act in regards to the Bureau of Reclamation's Plan Biological Assessment. To read the full letter to the Director, please go [here](#) .

06.11.09 - Today, Rep. Costa and Rep. Cardoza (D-Merced) sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar to express appreciation for the formation of the Drought Task Force and to invite the Secretary to visit the Central Valley to see the effect of the drought. To read the full letter, please go [here](#) .

06.05.09 - Today, Rep. Costa, along with fellow Valley Representative Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced), requested a meeting with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service to discuss the effects of NOAA's Biological Opinion on Central Valley agriculture. To read the full letter sent to Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, please go [here](#) .

06.04.09 - Rep. Costa, along with fellow Valley Representatives, sent a letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to express disappointment in Service's reply to the Family Farm Alliance's Information Quality Act Request. To read the full letter, please go [here](#) .

06.04.09 - Rep. Costa Slams Biological Opinion on The Central Valley Water Project and State Water Project

Today, the National Marine Fisheries Service finalized a biological opinion on the Central Valley Water Project and State Water Project. The opinion stated fish populations are in jeopardy without swift modifications to the Central Valley and State Water Projects. Following this release, Congressmen Jim Costa (D-Fresno) released the following [statement](#) .

04.15.09 - Rep. Costa Statement Following Secretary Salazar's Announcement

Today, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced a \$260 million investment in California's water infrastructure. Following that announcement, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) released the following statement [here](#) .

03.31.09 - Rep. Costa Statement At Today's Hearing On California's Drought

Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) made the following statement at full committee oversight hearing in the House Committee on Natural Resources. The hearing was titled, "The California Drought: Actions By Federal And State Agencies To Address Impacts On Lands, Fisheries And Water Users." To read the statement, please go [here](#) .

03.30.09 - Today, Rep. Costa and fellow Representatives urged Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to reinstate the consultation provision in the Endangered Species Act. To read the full letter, please go [here](#) .

03.12.09 - Today, Rep. Costa requested the Water and Power Subcommittee hold a hearing on H.R. 856, the California Drought Alleviation Act (CDAA). To read the full request to Chairwoman Napolitano, please go [here](#) .

03.12.09 - Today, Rep. Costa and fellow Valley Representatives sent a letter to President Obama expressing disappointment in the lack of a presidential visit to the Central Valley during the President's trip to California and urged the President to visit the region. To read the full letter, please go [here](#) .

03.06.09 - Rep. Costa sent a letter to President Obama requesting a federal disaster declaration and to declare California's Central Valley its first designee. To read Rep. Costa's full letter to the President, please go [here](#) .

02.13.09 - Rep. Costa requested that the the State Water Resources Control Board grant the joint petition by the USBR and the DWR to seek temporary urgency relief to modify water quality standards to address drought conditions.

02.06.09 - Today, Rep. Costa, along with fellow Valley Representatives, sent a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to request clarification and expiation of Executive Order declaring drought and the State of Emergency Proclamation for the San Joaquin Valley. To read the letter, please go [here](#) .

02.02.09 - Rep.Costa Requests Immediate Attention of Secretary Ken Salazar

Today, Rep. Costa and Rep. Cardoza (D-Merced) sent a letter requesting Secretary Salazar's immediate attention to California's water supply crisis, to protest regulatory measures preventing water conveyance, transfers and storage, and to request a meeting with the Secretary and extend an invitation for him to visit the Valley. To read the full letter, please go [here](#).

7.21.08 - Subcommittee Hears From Valley Residents and Experts on Water Emergency

Today, the House Subcommittee on Water and Power held a field hearing in Fresno, CA on the federal government's response to the California drought. Members heard from local officials, farmers, residents, and water experts on how the drought is impacting the Valley's cities and the economy. Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno), a member of the Subcommittee, was in attendance. To learn more, please go [here](#).

7.15.08 - Water and Power Subcommittee to Hold Drought Hearing in Fresno

Next week, the House Subcommittee on Water and Power will hold a field hearing on the federal government's response to the California drought. Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) and Valley Representatives Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced), George Radanovich (R-Mariposa), Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and Devin Nunes (R-Tulare) requested this hearing last month to ensure the federal government is informed about the drought and its impact on the people who live and work in the Valley. Costa is a member of the Subcommittee and will attend the field hearing. To learn more, please go [here](#).

7.8.2008 - The Water & Power Subcommittee has announced that it will hold a hearing on the federal response to the drought emergency on Monday, July 21, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fresno City Council Chambers, Fresno, California. To see the Subcommittee's announcement,

please go [here](#) .

6.26.2008 - Congressman Costa and other Valley representatives have urged the Natural Resources Committee's Water and Power Subcommittee to hold a hearing in the San Joaquin Valley on the drought emergency. To read the letter, please go [here](#) .

6.12.08 - The Governor has declared a state of emergency in nine Central Valley counties. Last week, Congressman Costa and other Valley congressmen urged the Governor to take this action. The Governor's proclamation directs the Department of Water Resources to work with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to deliver more water to the affected areas and to expedite the processing of water transfer requests. The proclamation also orders the Department of Water Resources to transfer groundwater through the California Aqueduct to benefit Central Valley farmers. To read the Governor's press release and proclamation, please go [here](#) .